

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An aluminum electrophotoconductive tube obtained by gas-slip casting of an aluminum alloy.

Claim 2 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein gas-slip casting includes forming a billet and at least one of extruding or drawing the billet to form the tube.

Claim 3 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the total number of substrate defects of an optical photoconductor drum obtained by coating the tube with a photogeneration layer and a charge transport layer is less than 0.5% based on a visual inspection of the optical photoconductor drum.

Claim 4 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy is a 3000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 5 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy is a 6000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 6 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy is an E3S or A40 aluminum alloy.

Claim 7 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein gas-slip casting is carried out without filtering.

Claim 8 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy further comprises a grain refiner.

Claim 9 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy further comprises titanium boride.

Claim 10 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, having an H₂ porosity of 0.2 ml/100 grams or less.

Claim 11 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 12 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the tube comprises an aluminum alloy comprising one or more of a recycled aluminum alloy, a regrind from an aluminum recycler, or scrap aluminum from a gas-slip process.

Claim 13 (Original): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the gas-slip casting is carried out with an apparatus for continuous or semi-continuous casting of aluminum having an outlet structure oriented to emit a cooling fluid skirt projecting in a direction parallel to an internal peripheral surface of a die to form a gas cushion between the skirt of the cooling fluid and a peripheral surface of said solidified aluminum tube to form an aluminum tube.

Claim 14 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 15 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the total number of substrate defects of an optical photoconductor drum obtained by coating the tube with a photogeneration layer and a charge transport layer is less than 0.5% based on a visual inspection of the optical photoconductor drum.

Claim 16 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the aluminum alloy is a 3000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 17 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the aluminum alloy is a 6000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 18 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the aluminum alloy is an E3S or an A40 aluminum alloy.

Claim 19 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein gas-slip casting is carried out without filtering.

Claim 20 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the aluminum alloy further comprises a grain refiner.

Claim 21 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the aluminum alloy further comprises a titanium boride.

Claim 22 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, having a H₂ porosity of 0.2 ml/100 grams or less.

Claim 23 (Original): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An optical photoconductor drum comprising
the an electrophotoconductive tube obtained by gas-slip casting of an aluminum alloy,
at least one charge generation layer, and
at least one charge transport layer;
wherein the charge generation and charge transport layers are present on the external
surface of the electrophotoconductive tube.

Claim 25 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, further
comprising an undercoat layer under the charge generation and charge transport layers.

Claim 26 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the
electrophotoconductive tube is anodized.

Claim 27 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the
surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical
microscopy.

Claim 28 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the
aluminum alloy is a 3000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 29 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the aluminum alloy is a 6000 aluminum alloy series.

Claim 30 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the aluminum alloy is an E3S or an A40 aluminum alloy.

Claim 31 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein gas-slip casting is carried out without filtering the aluminum alloy.

Claim 32 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the aluminum further comprises a grain refiner.

Claim 33 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the aluminum further comprises a titanium boride.

Claim 34 (Original): The optical photoconductor drum of Claim 24, wherein the tube comprises an aluminum alloy comprising one or more of a recycled aluminum alloy, a regrind from an aluminum recycler, or scrap aluminum from a gas-slip process.

Claim 35 (New): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the surface of the tube is free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 36 (New): The tube according to Claim 1, wherein no weld lines showing clear demarcation between areas is present on the surface.

Claim 37 (New): The tube of Claim 1, wherein no banding defects are visible on the surface.

Claim 38 (New): The tube of Claim 1, which is free of feather line and heat streak defects.

Claim 39 (New): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the surface is free of cut-away defects in the form of rough patches in size from 10 to 50 mm².

Claim 40 (New): The tube of Claim 1, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye.

Claim 41 (New): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the surface of the tube is free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 42 (New): The tube according to Claim 13, wherein no weld lines showing clear demarcation between areas is present on the surface.

Claim 43 (New): The tube of Claim 13, wherein no banding defects are visible on the surface.

Claim 44 (New): The tube of Claim 13, which is free of feather line and heat streak defects.

Claim 45 (New): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the surface is free of cut-away defects in the form of rough patches in size from 10 to 50 mm².

Claim 46 (New): The tube of Claim 13, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye.

Claim 47 (New): The tube of Claim 24, wherein the surface of the tube is free of a weld line visible by the naked eye or by optical microscopy.

Claim 48 (New): The tube of Claim 24, wherein no weld lines showing clear demarcation between areas is present on the surface.

Claim 49 (New): The tube of Claim 24, wherein no banding defects are visible on the surface.

Claim 50 (New): The tube of Claim 24, which is free of feather line and heat streak defects.

Claim 51 (New): The tube of Claim 24, wherein the surface is free of cut-away defects in the form of rough patches in size from 10 to 50 mm².

Claim 52 (New): The tube of Claim 24, wherein the surface of the tube is substantially free of a weld line visible by the naked eye.